

In The Claims

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) An apparatus for preparing a bone graft composite comprising a bone graft material and a bone marrow aspirate, the apparatus comprising:

a tube having a first open end and a second open end;

a first end cap removably coupled to said first open end, said first end cap having a passage therethrough to allow fluid communication between a bone marrow aspirate delivery member and said tube, a trailing end of said first end cap configured for selective attachment to a bone marrow aspirate delivery member;

a second end cap removably coupled to said second end, said second end cap having a passage therethrough to allow fluid communication between said tube and a filter, a leading end of said second end cap configured for selective attachment of a filter;

a filter member removably coupled to said leading end of said second end cap;

a filter in said filter member, said filter configured to prevent bone marrow aspirate from passing therethrough while permitting air to pass therethrough, said filter in fluid communication with said tube via said passage of said second end cap; and

a bone graft material in the tube.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said bone graft material is selected from the group consisting of calcium sulfate, calcium phosphate, tri-calcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite, coral hydroxyapatite, demineralized bone matrix, and mineralized bone matrix.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said bone graft material comprises tri-calcium phosphate.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said bone graft material is porous to bone marrow aspirate.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said bone graft material comprises a plurality of small pieces of bone graft material.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising said first end cap sealed by a removable first sealing cap on a trailing end of said first end cap.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising said filter member sealed by a removable second sealing cap on a leading end of said filter member.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a first washer disposed between said first end cap and said first end of said tube.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 30, further comprising a second washer disposed between said second end cap and said second end of said tube.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said bone graft material comprises a plurality of small pieces of bone graft material.
33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising a first washer disposed between said first end cap and said first end of said tube, and a second washer disposed between said second end cap and said second end of said tube.
34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising said first end cap sealed by a removable first sealing cap on a trailing end of said first end cap.
35. (New) The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising said filter member sealed by a removable second sealing cap on a leading end of said filter member.
36. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising bone marrow aspirate in said tube, said bone marrow aspirate having been introduced into said tube through said first end of said tube, and air having been expelled through said filter of said filter member to facilitate introduction of said bone marrow aspirate into said tube.
37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said bone marrow aspirate has been allowed to coagulate in said tube while in contact with said bone graft material.
38. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said bone graft material is substantially saturated with said bone marrow aspirate.
39. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, further comprising coupling a second sealing cap to said filter member to thereby provide a relatively air tight environment after air has been expelled from the tube.
40. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said bone graft material comprises tri-calcium phosphate.
41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising a first washer disposed between said first end cap and said first end of said tube.
42. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a second washer disposed between said second end cap and said second end of said tube.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein said trailing end of said first end cap configured for attachment to a bone marrow aspirate delivery member is configured for attachment to a syringe.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising coupling a second sealing cap to said filter member to thereby provide a relatively air tight environment after air has been expelled from the tube.